

October 22, 1962

MR. PRESIDENT:

The one thing I left out of the message to the Prime Minister is that if the Soviet nuclear build-up in Cuba continues, it would be a threat to the whole strategic balance of power, because really large numbers of missiles from this launch could create a first-strike temptation. Any such shift in the balance would be just as damaging to our allies as to us. The missiles that are there now do not create this hazard but a further build-up would. This is probably the most important single justification of our action from the point of view of the future of the West as a whole.

McG. B.